

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re the Application of )  
Peter Cheetham et al. )  
Serial No. Not yet assigned )  
[Int. Appl. No. PCT/GB00/00654])  
Filed: February 24, 2000 )  
For: "Flavour/Aroma Materials )  
And Their Preparation )

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The present application is based on International Application PCT/GB00/00654. Before calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows:

**In the specification:**

At page 1, line 2, please insert the following priority claim:

-- This application is a 35 U.S.C. §371 application which claims priority to PCT/GB00/00654 filed February 24, 2000 which in turn claims priority to GB application number 9904251.7 filed February 24, 1999, the disclosure of each of these applications being incorporated herein by reference. --

At page 59 of the application on a separate sheet, please insert the following abstract:

-- Flavor components, particularly for a vanilla composition, are produced by essentially natural methods employing biotransformation of plant-derived materials. Ferulic acid, a component of many plant cell walls, may be converted into vanillin, directly or indirectly. A plurality of such compounds may undergo bioconversions to produce components of a flavor composition.--